

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~In a process for manufacturing a PTFE filament of the type comprising steps of~~that includes~~extrusion of a billet of PTFE, and, subsequently, stretching, heating and cutting PTFE to form a PTFE filament, characterized by the following steps~~the improvement comprising~~prior to extrusion of the billet:

providing a recipient~~receptacle~~ having rigid side walls and a barrier that separates the receptacle into two portions;

arranging~~feeding~~ a first mixture containing PTFE and a filler in one portion, and a second mixture containing PTFE in a second portion, inside the recipient~~receptacle~~, side by side and aligned with the side walls; [[and]]

removing the barrier thereby enabling a part of the first mixture to contact a part of the second, and be arranged side by side and aligned with the side walls of the receptacle; and

pressing the first and second mixtures in a direction parallel to the side walls to form a billet in which the first and second mixtures having different coefficients of friction~~[[.]].~~

wherein in the arranging step, the first and the second mixtures are inserted respectively into two portions of the recipient separated by a barrier, and, subsequently, the barrier is removed, enabling a part of the first mixture to contact a part of the second, and be arranged side by side and aligned with the side walls of the recipient.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The process according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that, in the step of arranging ~~wherein~~ the first mixture includes a pigment and the second mixture includes ~~another~~ a different pigment.

3. (Withdrawn) A PTFE filament obtained by the process defined in claim 1, characterized by comprising one side with a filler, so that this side has a different coefficient of friction in relation to the other side.

4. (Withdrawn) ) A PTFE filament according to claim 3, characterized by the fact that the first and the second mixtures have the same shrink properties.

5. (Withdrawn) A PTFE filament according to claim 3 or 4, characterized by further comprising a lubricant.

6. (Withdrawn) A PTFE filament according to any one of claims 3 to 5, characterized by the fact that each side has a different color.

7. (Withdrawn) A PTFE filament according to any one of claims 3 to 6, characterized by the fact that the filler comprises at least one of silica, alumina, mica and calcium carbonate.

8. (Withdrawn) A PTFE filament according to any one of claims 3 to 7, characterized by the fact that the quantity of filler in the respective side ranges from 1 to 25%.

9. (Withdrawn) A PTFE filament according to any one of claims 3 to 8, characterized by the fact that the quantity of pigment in at least one side ranges from 0.05% to 10%.

10. (Withdrawn) A PTFE filament according to any one of claims 3 to 9, characterized by the fact that said coefficient of friction in the side with filler ranges from 0.08 to 0.20 and the other side is less than 0.08.

11. (Withdrawn) A PTFE filament according to any one of claims 3 to 10, characterized by comprising a width ranging from 0.5 to 3.0 mm, a thickness ranging from 20 to 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , a density ranging from 0.7 to 2.2  $\text{g/cm}^3$ , a tensile strength ranging from 100 to 1100 MPa and a tenacity ranging from 2.0 to 6.0 cN/dtex.